

Dear FCC,

I am quite outraged to hear that a company can force down its affiliates' throats a programming that can hardly be called "news" or newsworthy. I believe there has been plenty of press regarding the Swift Boat group and its sponsors. I can hardly believe that this kind of conduct can be legal and tolerated by the FCC. I am quite sure that if a broadcasting company were to force its stations to air a program such as let us say Michael Moore's film "Fahrenheit 9/11", FCC would have imposed an injunction to stop airing it.

In addition, Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. This action of the Sinclair Group sets a very bad precedent for the future of free media, and I implore to do everything in your power and authority to stop this airing of this mock documentary.

Thank you.  
Cordially,

Henry Urbach